

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device for cooling and/or rinsing at least one steel wire and/or ribbon, comprising

- driving means ~~(23, 24) of driving in movement~~ for moving at least one steel wire or ribbon ~~(3) ribbon,~~

~~characterised in that this device also comprises~~

~~- a vessel (1)~~

- a vessel arranged below the at least one moving steel wire and/or ribbon and containing a cooling and/or rinsing liquid, and provided the vessel being provided with outlets from which a certain number of successive curtains of liquid (17), through which the said at least one steel wire and/or ribbon passes, flow turbulently, and

- ~~means (22) of adjusting the number of successive curtains to be passed through by the said at least one wire and/or ribbon according to the cooling and/or rinsing to be obtained~~

- spouting means for spouting the curtains of liquid from the outlets of the vessel in a rising curtain flow, the at least one moving steel wire and/or ribbon passing through successive curtains, the spouting means comprising:

- supply means for supplying pressurized gas bubbles in a bottom part of the vessel

and

- guidance means for forcibly guiding the bubbles towards the outlets, the bubbles entraining the liquid upwardly in a form of rising turbulent-flow curtains of liquid.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~Claim 2~~ claim 1,
characterised in that the means of spraying

wherein the spouting means for spouting the curtains of liquid are arranged so that
there is, towards at least one side of each curtain after its rising, a fall of the liquid ~~(18, 19)~~
through which passes ~~through the said the~~ at least one moving steel wire and/or ribbon.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to Claim 3, characterised in
that the means of spraying

wherein the spouting means for spouting the liquid curtains are arranged with respect
to each other so that the falls coming from at least two adjoining curtains intersect.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1,
characterised in that it also comprises, further comprising:

deflecting means provided above ~~the said the~~ at least one moving steel wire and/or
ribbon,

the deflecting means ~~(20, 21) which adapted to~~ divert the rising turbulent flow of the
~~above-mentioned turbulent-flow~~ curtains of liquid towards at least one side of each curtain,
so as to form from there, at least one fall of turbulent-flow liquid through which ~~the said the~~
at least one steel wire and/or ribbon moves.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to Claim 6 claim 1,
~~characterised in that the~~

wherein the force guidance means consist of includes two plates (15, 16) supported on
each side in the tank (1) vessel.

wherein top ends of the two plates are disposed so as to form between them, at a top
end situated above the above a level of the cooling and/or rinsing liquid, the tops ends of the
two plates being separated by a first uniform narrow separation disposed perpendicular to the
said the at least one moving steel wire and/or ribbon to be treated, and,

wherein bottom ends of the two plates at a second bottom end are situated towards the
bottom of the tank part of the vessel, the bottom ends of the two plates being separated by a
second separation that is greater than the first narrow separation,

wherein the supply means (7-9, 13, 14) of for supplying gas bubbles bringing these
are arranged between the bottom ends of the two plates (15, 16) towards the said bottom end
of these.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Device according to claim 6 claim 1, characterised in that~~
~~each means of spraying a cooling and/or rinsing liquid curtain comprises its own means (7-9)~~
~~of~~

wherein the spouting means for spouting the liquid curtains include multiple supply means for supplying the pressurized gas bubbles and in that it comprises, as an
the device further comprising:
adjustment means ~~means (22)~~ for individually opening or closing, as required, the means
~~of supply means for supplying the pressurized gas bubbles of each spraying means.~~